REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 28-35 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-35 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

The Examiner states that restriction to one of the following is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I: Claims 1-27, classified in Class 370, Subclass 334; or

Group II: Claims 28-35, classified in Class 370, Subclass 318.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, containing Claims 1-27, for examination on the merits. Applicants also reserve the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected claims.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Reg. No. 33,494

Attorney for Applicants

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP 333 Earle Ovington Blvd. Uniondale, NY 11553 Tel: (516) 228-8484

PJF/JWK:las